

I am proud to say that I knew David. Over the years, I developed a deep respect for his work on behalf of his community. A man who dedicated his time, skill, and passion to those around him, I know that countless Kentuckians will remember his good works. I know that I will.

I would like to extend my deepest condolences to his son, Dr. Scott Stevens, and all of David's family and friends. As one of the countless individuals impacted by David's life, I can say with great certainty that he will be deeply missed.

REMEMBERING CHARLES ANTHONY "C.A." WILLIAMS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life of Charles Anthony "C.A." Williams, of London, KY, who passed away after a long career of public service and great creativity.

During a lifetime of achievement, C.A. had many professions. He served his community as a Laurel County clerk and his Nation in the U.S. Army. He traveled the country driving a semi-truck, and he shared his deep faith as a gospel music singer and songwriter.

In each of these endeavors, C.A. showed his passion, his skill, and his love. Through his music and his witness, C.A. fulfilled his greatest desire in life. Mr. Kip Jervis, one of C.A.'s nephews, remembered that his uncle "had a made-up mind of where he was headed, and he made it his mission to take everyone he could with him." This drive led C.A. to share his story and his faith.

His passion continued throughout his battle with brain cancer. After a 1989 diagnosis, C.A. faced every day with optimism, knowing that "he was a winner either way." After a long fight, C.A. recovered from cancer and continued to write music.

Reverend Gene Greene, the pastor of Carmichael Pentecostal Church in East Bernstadt, remembered C.A.'s immense talent. During his long drives in his semi-truck, C.A. would write gospel songs, a practice that became his greatest joy. He released some of these songs in an album called "Magnificent Jesus." For a man of so many talents, this album was one of C.A.'s proudest accomplishments.

C.A. left behind three loving children, Brittany, Brooklyn, and Israel, and his sister, Connie. I know that the memories of C.A.'s love for them will help ease their pain. Elaine and I send our deepest condolences to the entire Williams family, and I know that C.A. will be remembered fondly by everyone he inspired with his faith, his dedication, and his music. He was a good man, and I am proud to say he was my friend.

RECOGNIZING VERMONTERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO REFUGEES

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is known far and wide as a tourist destination for all seasons. From our celebrated ski slopes to our stunning and world-renowned fall foliage, Vermont draws travelers from near and far, from nearby States and from Canada, our neighbor to the north. What many don't realize is that Vermont has also become home to refugees and asylum seekers from Iraq, Syria, Bosnia, Sudan, and elsewhere. These men, women and children enrich our communities and inspire us all.

One Vermont community, Rutland, last year announced that it would welcome refugees fleeing the catastrophic civil war in Syria. The town was preparing to welcome 100 refugees. Nine arrived. When President Trump issued his appalling and disastrous executive order banning admission to refugees from Syria and six other nations, the remaining 91 individuals were prevented from coming to Vermont.

I have heard from hundreds of Vermonters outraged by President Trump's Executive actions to close our borders to those seeking refuge. Also deeply concerning is the President's clear intent on targeting Muslim refugees. The freedom of religion, enshrined in the First Amendment of our Constitution and defended through the ages by generations of Americans, should not be squandered to promote an unfounded fear.

The voices raised in opposition to these executive orders cross the spectrum. I want to include in the RECORD some of those voices: students at Rutland High School, some of whom have formed the New Neighbors Club, to help welcome refugee students who will attend Rutland City Public Schools.

Emma writes: "I am a 9th grader from Rutland High School. We should continue to support immigration in Vermont and the United States. These people deserve a good life and don't deserve what they have to go through."

Carolyn writes: "I'm from Rutland, Vermont, and I believe that refugee resettlement is an important issue. We have the opportunity to make a change in these people's lives and make new relationships and bonds in our lives. They need a support system so why can't that be us?"

Lea writes: "This immigration ban is a big problem to me. I don't like that our country is stopping people from coming to our country. I know many people are afraid of what could happen to us. But we are all human and they are humans looking for safety."

Lily writes, "Everyone deserves the same amount of respect and understanding that we afford to anyone. The refugees obviously need our help and we are completely capable of building a community that is ready and willing to accept the refugees."

Jessica writes: "I can understand these fears, but they also clearly come

from an inhumane and misinformed point of view. Without immigration in the past, no one would be here, and it is simply un-American to deny freedom from persecution to refugees and other immigrants."

Emma writes: "With all of the recent stigma regarding the Refugee Resettlement Plan, Rutland's program has recently gone static. At Rutland High School, we have a club that helps raise money and eventually welcome the refugees. Please make all the movement possible to make these people feel welcome in our state. We don't want to be stuck on the wrong side of history."

Victoria writes: "I feel that it is incredibly important for us to help refugees who are in desperate need of a second chance at life. As a global superpower of a country, it seems absurd to me that we are accepting so few refugees to our communities, as we could be helping with the global refugee crisis a whole lot more by actually trying to mitigate it."

Ian writes: "The refugees should come to Rutland because we are devoted to helping integrate them into our community. Several of the students here are devoting every Friday to getting together and coming up with great ideas on how we can incorporate them."

Kjersti writes: "As a citizen in the United States, I believe the diversity is what makes this country beautiful, and the fact that someone is exempt from the freedom and is turned away because of their diversity is not what this country stands for."

Noah writes: "I believe we should let people immigrate to Vermont because the people in these countries are living in terrible living conditions. Everyone in this world is equal so there's no reason not to let them in. They just want a chance at a safe life."

Ashleigh writes: "We should continue to support immigration for the Syrian refugees into our community. This is such a great opportunity for Rutland to experience more diversity and more culture. Our small city would benefit greatly from allowing refugees to come and live with us."

Kelsey writes: "People who are safe and living comfortably should do their best to help those that need it. I feel by turning them away and denying them help we are being inhuman and cruel."

Caitlin writes: "I believe immigration should be accepted in all areas of this country. I strongly support the idea of people wanting to make a better life for themselves. I choose to take a stand against anti-immigration for I believe it is essential to make America better."

Greta writes: "These Syrians are people who have gone through atrocities and deserve our help. They will also promote understanding and diversity in our community amidst this political climate of fear mongering. Welcoming Syrian refugees will only be beneficial for Rutland and United States, and is upholding the value of America and human rights."

And Elizabeth writes: "I am disappointed with how our current administration is portraying our nation to the rest of the world. I think the people of the United States are stronger, more loving, and kinder people than what is being shown, and I think we need to take individual action in order to show this."

The voices of these young Vermonters are emblematic of what I hear from Vermonters across our State. We all want to keep our country safe; of that, there is no question. But President Trump's travel ban ignores the clear fact that refugees are the most stringently vetted travelers to the United States. His Executive order provokes and plays on fear. It does not make us safer.

Benjamin Franklin once famously said, "Those who give up essential liberty, to purchase a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." I hope all Senators will listen to the words of these young Vermonters. President Trump's Executive order does little to enhance our security, but does great damage to the freedoms that are the cornerstone of our good and great Nation.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Arlington, VA.

Hon. BOB CORKER,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 16-81, concerning the Department of the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Singapore for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$66 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

J.W. RIXEY,
Vice Admiral, USN, Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-81

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

- (i) Prospective Purchaser: Singapore.
- (ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$42 million.
Other \$24 million.
Total \$66 million.
- (iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:
Major Defense Equipment (MDE):
Two thousand (2,000) XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) rounds.
Non-MDE includes: U.S. Government and contractor services, mortar tube compatibility testing and/or modification, and other associated support equipment and services.
- (iv) Military Department: Army (VGG).
- (v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.
- (vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.
- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Annex Attached.
- (viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 13, 2017.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Government of Singapore—XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) Rounds

The Government of Singapore has requested a possible sale of two thousand (2,000) XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) rounds; U.S. Government and contractor services; and other associated support equipment and services. The total estimated cost is \$66 million.

This proposed sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been, and continues to be an important partner and force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia Pacific region.

The Government of Singapore intends to use these defense articles and services to modernize its armed forces to meet current and future threats, to strengthen its homeland defense, and to provide greater security for its economic infrastructure. The Government of Singapore will have no difficulty absorbing XM395 APMI mortar rounds into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support does not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be Orbital ATK. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require U.S. Government personnel or U.S. contractor representatives to travel to Singapore for a period of one (1) week for equipment fielding and acceptance testing by the Quality Assurance Team.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 16-81

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

- (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:
1. The XM395 Accelerated Precision Mortar Initiative (APMI) is a Global Positioning System (GPS), Precise Positioning Service (PPS) guided 120mm high explosive mortar cartridge capable of enemy defeat with low collateral damage. It utilizes a Precision Light-Weight Universal Mortar Setting Sys-

tem (PLUMSS) that contains an Improved Platform Integration kit (iPIK) to load GPS coordinates, mission trajectory and fuze mode data into the mortar round. The GPS PPS crypto key is loaded into the iPIK by system key loader PYQ-10. Both the XM395 and the iPIK contain a Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM). The XM395 has 90% commonality with the Army's M1156 Precision Guided Kit. The overall system classification is SECRET.

2. XM395 utilizes the Army's M782 Multi-Option for Artillery (MOFA) Proximity Height of Burst (HOB) Technology. The HOB sensor is comprised of components with technologies deemed as state of the art, requiring specialized production skills. The sensitive/critical technology is primarily in the design, development, production and manufacturing of the components (integrated circuits and assembly), and the integration methodology required to integrate those components onto an assembly to process embedded data (the software—algorithm—working parameters). The overall system classification is SECRET.

3. Disclosure of this technology could result in an adversary developing countermeasures, thus lessening the effect of the projectile. Disclosure of test data, countermeasures, vulnerability/susceptibility analyses, and threat definition could allow reverse engineering and use by an adversary for possible use against U.S. and Coalition forces. Compromise could jeopardize the U.S. inventory through jammer development by adversaries. The risk of compromise has been assessed as moderate. Risk is reduced for fuze/munitions if adequately controlled and protected in storage and on the battlefield. Risk is mitigated by the prevention of disclosure of sensitive classified information (the know-how, software, and associated documentation).

4. A determination has been made that the recipient country can provide the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Singapore.

AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY MERGERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be printed in the RECORD the concerns of the Summit Agricultural Group regarding three mergers in the agriculture industry. Specifically, this group is concerned with the mergers between Bayer AG and Monsanto, DuPont and Dow Chemical, and China National Chemical Corporation—ChemChina—and Syngenta AG. The paper states that "the mergers of these international agrochemical and seed giants will significantly reduce competition and innovation in the agricultural sector, and will cause irreparable harm to the American farmer via increased input costs."

As my colleagues are aware, I have long been concerned about concentration and competition in the agriculture sector. Increased concentration in the industry could significantly reduce choice and raise the price of chemicals and seed for farmers, which ultimately can affect choice and costs for consumers. Moreover, further consolidation could diminish crucial research